

Subject to Approval

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2021, 7:30 P.M.
ZOOM MEETING ~ MADISON TOWN CAMPUS**

Minutes of the Meeting of January 25, 2021, 7:30 p.m. – Zoom Public Participation Meeting with publicly posted information giving the webinar link password, telephone call in number and webinar identification number.

Members present: Chairman Heather Crawford, Vice Chairman Christine Bouchard, Secretary Alex Cushing

Members absent: Danielle Butsch, Shannon Lewis

Others present: Daniel Hand High School Environmental Club Student Commissioners Marina Dixon and Elizabeth Ozimek.

1. **Call the meeting to order:** Chair Heather Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
2. **Review and approve minutes for December 14, 2020 and January 11, 2021:**

Vice Chairman Christine Bouchard made the motion to accept the December 14, 2020 minutes, as submitted. The motion was seconded by Secretary Cushing and unanimously approved. Secretary Cushing made a motion to amend the January 11, 2021 minutes to correct the wording in item 5, eighth sentence to read, “Secretary Cushing stated that in developing the lots, particularly the lot off Maplewood Avenue, the land will be graded away from the houses, directing stormwater into the wetlands. Can the parcels be landscaped to avoid this?” Vice Chair Bouchard seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Both votes to accept the minutes passed, 3-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Crawford, Vice Chairman Bouchard and Secretary Cushing

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

3. **Call for additional agenda items:** Chair Crawford informed the rest of the commission that she would be meeting with First Selectwoman Lyons and asked for issues to be brought up in that meeting. The critical need for the WPCA wastewater study, finalizing the Natural Resource Inventory, Earth Day/Green-up Clean-up organization and the need for town staffing to address environmental monitoring and enforcement issues were listed.
4. **Discuss upcoming environmental issues:** Vice Chair Bouchard reported on a conversation with State Rep John-Michael Parker about possible legislation in the Environment Committee. Further research has found that DEEP is finalizing a study of nutrient input issues and impacts on Long Island Sound and he sent a copy of the executive summary. He also emphasized that the DEEP is very interested in Madison completing the update to its wastewater management study.
5. **Discuss Sustainable CT and Madison efforts:** Chair Crawford reported on a zoom meeting to discuss the Sustainable Madison certification process and the possibility of combining the Conservation Commission with the Energy and Efficiency Committee to work on this effort. With an interim deadline of April and a final report due in August, it does not look like Madison will be

applying for re-certification this year. Vice Chair Bouchard suggested that volunteers be recruited over the spring and summer and an active effort to attain certification start in August or September.

6. Updates on activities and projects

a. Dark Skies education and regulation: Dark Skies Week is April 11-17, 2021. The banner site is reserved for the week of March 28-April 3 and April 11-17. We can either hang the same banner twice or create a second one with a different message. Chair Crawford found a British Dark Skies site that referred to light pollution as “night blight” and this that could be a possibility. She will also contact the reporter about getting an article or two into the local papers before or during the actual week this year.

b. Anti-idling Campaign: Chair Crawford reported that she has confirmed it is a state law to not idle engines for more than three minutes and some literature is available. There is also a short video, based on the Mythbusters, to raise awareness of the financial and environmental costs of engine idling.

c. Invasive species education: There was a brief discussion of the state standards for determining if a species is invasive.

d. Community Outreach: Updates and letters to the editor on tree damage related to disease and invasive species were discussed.

e. Others: The need to get going on the NRI was discussed.

7. Discuss commission member needs: There are still two open spaces on the commission. Chair Crawford will write a letter to the editor soliciting help and membership

8. Update from student liaisons: The Eco Club is looking into getting the cafeteria to use reusable silverware but has been told between COVID and the budget it will not be happening soon. Commission members suggested a campaign to BYO silverware and Vice Chair Bouchard described the reusable utensils she has been carrying for years. The possibility of selling reusable utensil sets was raised.

9. Adjourn

Vice Chairman Bouchard made the motion to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.; it was seconded by Secretary Cushing and unanimously approved.

Vote to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. passed, 4-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Crawford, Vice Chairman Bouchard and Secretary Cushing.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather M. Crawford